

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

Calgary

October 31, 2016

News story #1 murder (0:10)

Former nurse charged with 8 counts of

Setting the Scene



Former nurse Elizabeth Tracy Mae Wettlaufer being escorted by police in Woodstock, Ontario (Citynews Toronto/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

In Woodstock, Ontario, a former nurse has been charged with murder. She worked in several nursing homes in southern Ontario, and is charged with murdering 8 elderly people in these nursing homes. Nursing homes are residences for elderly people who cannot live alone or with family. They hire medical staff such as nurses to help patients with long-term illnesses.

Pre-listening Questions

What is a nurse's job? What are some places where nurses work?

Where do the elderly people in your family live?

Are there nursing homes in your home country? Who takes care of elderly people who are sick?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	former (adj.)	a) hurt/attacked people; casualties
_____	charges (n.)	b) acts, incidents
_____	patients (n.)	c) medicine, pill
_____	counts (n.)	d) study, review
_____	alleged (adj.)	e) deadly, lethal
_____	victims (n.)	f) past, earlier
_____	fatal (adj.)	g) quit, gave up
_____	dose (n.)	h) suspected, accused
_____	drug (n.)	i) arrests, blame
_____	resigned (v.)	j) amount, measured portion
_____	investigation (n.)	k) sick people, client (of a doctor)

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:
first-degree murder - a killing that was planned

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2pkwei

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ A foreign nurse in Ontario is facing 8 murder charges.
2. ____ She killed patients in the nursing homes where she worked.
3. ____ The deaths happened in Woodstock and London between 2007 and 2013.
4. ____ Wettlaufer has been charged with first-degree murder.
5. ____ The victims were between the ages of 76 and 96.
6. ____ All the patients died from a fatal dose of a drug.
7. ____ Wettlaufer resigned as a nurse last spring.
8. ____ She resigned one day after the police started their investigation.
9. ____ The College of Nurses of Ontario are investigating Wettlaufer.
10. ____ Wettlaufer is currently working as a nurse.

Food for Thought

What are some possible reasons for why the woman may have killed her patients?

What do you think will happen to this woman?

News story #2 residents (1:17)

Alberta government offers free flu shots to

Setting the Scene



(Tony Talbot/AP) (CBC File photo)

Every year, the flu virus causes sickness and even death to Canadians. Provincial governments offer free flu shots to residents, so they can avoid getting sick. People need to get these shots every year, because the virus develops and changes. This means that last year's shot may not fully protect people against the newest form of the virus. In Alberta, the free flu shot is available now.

Pre-listening Questions

What does a vaccination do?

What kinds of illnesses are prevented by vaccination?

Are you vaccinated against any diseases? Which ones?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

residents (n.)	people who live in a particular place
contagious (adj.)	can be passed from one person to another
symptoms (n.)	changes in the body when it is sick
confirmed (adj.)	shown to be true
cases (n.)	instances or examples of something
hospitalized (v.)	put in a hospital for care
drop-in clinic (n.)	a place to see a doctor without making an appointment first
pharmacy (n.)	a store where medicines are sold

1. Julia thought she was pregnant. Her doctor gave her a blood test, which _____ that she was pregnant.
2. If you get sick when travelling to a different city in the province, a _____ is a good place to go if you need a doctor.
3. Most skin problems, like acne and eczema, are not _____, so you don't need to worry about getting them from a friend.
4. You can buy simple medicine like cough syrup and headache pills at any _____.
5. Most people who catch the flu get better on their own, but in some _____, their body can't get better and they have to be _____ so doctors take care of them.
6. _____ of some South American countries, like Brazil, are worried about the Zika virus in their area.
7. Fever, headache, coughing, sore muscles, and a stuffed or runny nose are all _____ of the flu.

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2pkwmw

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Matching

Read the numbers and lengths of time below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the number or amount of time with the correct information that follows.

Answers are in the appendix.

Number/Time		Information
6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> how long people will stay contagious once they feel sick
27%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> number of people hospitalized
a full day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> how long people can be contagious with the flu before they show any symptoms
up to 5 days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> age (and older) for people to get free flu shots
5,300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> number of people who died
5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> number of confirmed cases of the flu in Alberta last year
more than 1,600	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> number of Albertans who got the flu shot last year
62	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> the number of confirmed cases is the highest in this amount of time

Food for thought

How do you prevent colds and flu?

When you get the flu, what do you do to get better?

Have you been to a doctor or clinic in Canada? How are they different from your home country?

News story #3

“Creepy clown” trend causes new Halloween restrictions (2:20)

Setting the Scene



The “creepy clown” trend involves scary masks, wigs, and face paint (Hannibal/Reuters) (CBC file photo)

Halloween (October 31st) is a holiday where people dress in scary costumes for fun. However, there is a new trend in North America, where people dress in scary clown masks and costumes. They go to public places like parks or schools and try to scare people. The clown trend has frightened so many people, so some organizations want to forbid these costumes. They are considered too scary, and too connected with harassment.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you think of clowns? Do they scare you?

What do you know about Halloween? Have you ever celebrated it?

If you were going to a Halloween party, what costume would you wear? Why?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	<u>Word</u> costumes	a) businesses that sell things to customers
_____	(n.) decorations	b) causing a feeling that something is wrong or bad
_____	(n.) retailers (n.)	c) annoying or bothering
_____	trend (n.)	d) wearing clothes that look like a certain person or thing
_____	dressing up	e) answered a question or request
_____	as (v.) strangers	f) something added to something else to make it look nicer
_____	(n.) responded	f) not allowed, forbidden
_____	(v.) suspicious	h) something that is currently popular
_____	(adj.) harassing	i) clothes that make someone look like a different person or thing
_____	(v.) banned (adj.)	j) people you have not met before

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

Halloween - an annual holiday (October 31st) when people wear fun or scary costumes

the public - the people of a country, state, city, etc.

criminal charges - accusations that someone has committed a crime or crimes

We encourage you to study these new words using this link:

https://quizlet.com/_2pkwsh

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then, listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. It could be hard to find clown _____ and _____ this Halloween.	a. cosmetics / dresses b. candies / desserts c. costumes / decorations
2. Some stores like _____ have stopped selling them.	a. Crate and Barrel b. Canadian Tire c. Creepy Clown
3. People have been dressing as clowns and _____ to scare strangers.	a. blowing up balloons b. giving out presents c. going out in public
4. RCMP in Airdrie have responded to _____ calls about creepy clowns.	a. at least 10 b. about 8 c. around 20
5. They have warned people that costumes should only be _____.	a. facing criminal charges b. for anyone c. used for fun
6. In _____, schools have sent home letters.	a. Fort McMurray b. Grande Prairie c. Forest Heights
7. They say that clown costumes are banned from _____.	a. the school parking lot b. school property c. schools and parks

Food for thought

Why do you think the “creepy clown” trend is happening?

Do you like to be scared? For example, do you watch scary movies or read scary books?

In your country, do you have events or holidays where people wear costumes? How is it different from Halloween?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with the CBC for October 31st with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	A former nurse in Ontario is facing 8 murder charges after Ontario Provincial Police say she killed patients in the nursing homes where she worked. The deaths happened in Woodstock and London between 2007 and 2014. Elizabeth Wettlaufer has been charged with 8 counts of first degree murder. The alleged victims were between the ages of 75 and 96. Police would not say exactly how they died, but did say all but one died after being given a fatal dose of a drug. Wettlaufer resigned as a nurse on September 30th of this year, one day after police say they started their investigation. The College of Nurses of Ontario says they are investigating Wettlaufer and she is no longer able to work as a nurse.	0:10
Story 2	The government of Alberta is once again offering free flu shots to residents 6 months of age and older. Last year, only 27 per cent of Albertans got the flu shot, and officials say that number is not high enough. The department of health says people can be contagious with the flu for a full day before they show any symptoms. And they will stay contagious for up to five days once they feel sick. Last year, there were more than 5 thousand three hundred confirmed cases of the flu in Alberta. That's the highest number in five years. More than 16-hundred people were hospitalized and 62 died. You can get your free flu shot at drop in clinics, or from your doctor or pharmacy.	1:17
Story 3	It could be hard to find clown costumes and decorations at some stores this Halloween. Some retailers, like Canadian Tire, have stopped selling them because of what's being called the "Creepy Clown" trend. Across North America, people have been dressing up as scary clowns, and going out in public to scare total strangers. RCMP in Airdrie say they have responded to at least 10 calls about suspicious	2:20

	people dressed up as creepy clowns. They've warned people costumes should only be used for fun, and say anyone harassing the public could face criminal charges. In Fort McMurray, schools have sent home letters telling parents clown costumes are banned from school property.	
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Answer keys

News story 1 - Former nurse charged with 8 counts of murder (0:10)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
f	former (adj.)	a) hurt/attacked people; casualties
i	charges (n.)	b) acts, incidents
k	patients (n.)	c) medicine, pill
b	counts (n.)	d) study, review
h	alleged (adj.)	e) deadly, lethal
a	victims (n.)	f) past, earlier
e	fatal (adj.)	g) quit, gave up
j	dose (n.)	h) suspected, accused
c	drug (n.)	i) arrests, blame
g	resigned (v.)	j) amount, measured portion
d	investigation (n.)	k) sick people, client (of a doctor)

Listening

- 1. F** A foreign nurse in Ontario is facing 8 murder charges.
- 2. T** She killed patients in the nursing homes where she worked.
- 3. F** The deaths happened in Woodstock and London between 2007 and 2013.
- 4. T** Wettlaufer has been charged with first-degree murder.

5. **F** The victims were between the ages of 76 and 96.
6. **F** All the patients died from a fatal dose of a drug.
7. **F** Wettlaufer resigned as a nurse last spring.
8. **T** She resigned one day after the police started their investigation.
9. **T** The College of Nurses of Ontario are investigating Wettlaufer.
10. **F** Wettlaufer is currently working as a nurse.

News story 2 - Alberta government offers free flu shots to residents (1:17)

Vocabulary

1. Julia thought she was pregnant. Her doctor gave her a blood test, which **confirmed** that she was pregnant.
2. If you get sick when travelling to a different city in the province, a **walk-in clinic** is a good place to go if you need a doctor.
3. Most skin problems, like acne and eczema, are not **contagious**, so you don't need to worry about getting them from a friend.
4. You can buy simple medicine like cough syrup and headache pills at any **pharmacy**.
5. Most people who catch the flu get better on their own, but in some **cases**, their body can't get better and they have to be **hospitalized** so doctors take care of them.
6. **Residents** of some South American countries, like Brazil, are worried about the Zika virus in their area.
7. Fever, headache, coughing, sore muscles, and a stuffed or runny nose are all **symptoms** of the flu.

Listening

Number/Time

Information

6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	how long people will stay contagious once they feel sick
27%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	number of people hospitalized
a full day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	how long people can be contagious with the flu before they show any symptoms
up to 5 days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	age (and older) for people to get free flu shots
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5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	number of confirmed cases of the flu in Alberta last year
more than 1,600	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	number of Albertans who got the flu shot last year
62	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	the number of confirmed cases is the highest in this amount of time

News story 3 - "Creepy clown" trend causes new Halloween restrictions (2:20)

Vocabulary

Answer	Vocabulary	Definition
i	costumes	a) businesses that sell things to customers
f	decorations	b) causing a feeling that something is wrong or bad
a	retailers (n.)	c) annoying or bothering
h	trend (n.)	d) wearing clothes that look like a certain person or thing

d	clown	e) answered a question or request
j	as (v.)	
i	strangers	f) something added to something else to make it look nicer
e	(n.)	
e	responded	g) not allowed, forbidden
b	(v.)	
b	suspicious	h) something that is currently popular
c	(adj.)	
c	harassing	i) clothes that make someone look like a different person or thing
g	(v.)	
g	banned (adj.)	j) people you have not met before

Listening

1. It could be hard to find clown _____ and _____ this Halloween.	a. cosmetics / dresses b. candies / desserts c. costumes / decorations
2. Some stores like _____ have stopped selling them.	a. Crate and Barrel b. Canadian Tire c. Creepy Clown
3. People have been dressing as clowns and _____ to scare strangers.	a. blowing up balloons b. giving out presents c. going out in public
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5. They have warned people that costumes should only be _____.	a. facing criminal charges b. for anyone c. used for fun
6. In _____, schools have sent home letters.	a. Fort McMurray b. Grande Prairie c. Forest Heights
7. They say that clown costumes are banned _____	a. the school parking

from _____.

lot

b. school property

c. schools and parks